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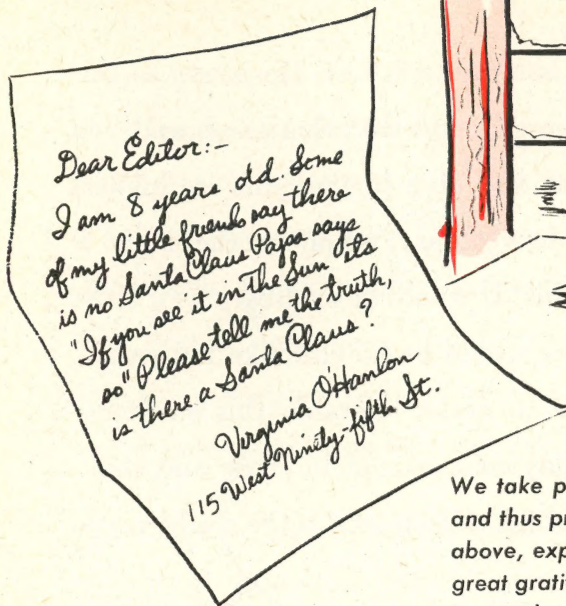


Is there a Santa Claus?

THIS FAMOUS editorial was written by Francis Pharellus Church of the *New York Sun* in 1897. The origin of the Santa Claus article is best described by Edward P. Mitchell, who was in charge of *The Sun's* editorial page.

"One day in 1897 I handed to him a letter that had come in the mail from a child of eight, saying: 'Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?' Her little friends had told her no. Church bristled and pooh-poohed at the subject when I suggested that he write a reply to Virginia O'Hanlon; but he took the letter and turned with an air of resignation to his desk. In a short time he had produced the article which has probably been reprinted during the past quarter of a century, as the classic expression of Christmas sentiment, more millions of times than any other newspaper article ever written by any newspaper writer in any language. Even yet no holiday season approaches without bringing requests from all over the land for the exact text for repeated use on Christmas Day."





We take pleasure in answering at once
 and thus prominently the communication
 above, expressing at the same time our
 great gratification that its faithful author
 is numbered among the friends of
 The Sun:



IRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They
 have been affected by the skepticism of a
 skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They
 think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by
 their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be
 men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours
 man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared
 with the boundless world about him, as measured by the
 intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and
 knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Mrs. Edward Douglas, the former Virginia O'Hanlon, is now assistant principal of Public School 31 in New York. At 63, she says she still believes in Santa Claus because the little children in her school have no doubt he exists, and the older children "have just as much Christmas spirit as they ever did."

Of the 1897 editorial, Mrs. Douglas told *Nash Airflyte Magazine's* interviewer, "When I read it as a girl, it spoke of a world I knew. Now, when you read it, with its reference to tens of thousands of years from now, you realize the certainty of the world 50 years ago as compared with the uncertainty now."

"Let us hope at this Christmas season that the dangers will disappear and the hearts of children can be glad for tens of thousands of years."





How to Choose TOYS

*Some Do's and Don'ts Designed To Help
Assistant Santas Make Wise Gift Selections*

by RUTH MILLARD

Whether you shop for your own youngsters or play Santa to the children of friends and relatives, it's a big help to make a list of ages and interests of the gift recipients before you make your visit to toyland.

Here are some do's and don'ts suggested by Dr. Grace Langdon, child development adviser of the American Toy Institute, to help assistant Santas do the best possible job.

Don't put off toy shopping until the last minute when stocks are depleted and the sales girl may be too tired and harassed to tell you what a girl of five will like best.

Do observe at play the children on your Christmas list, if you possibly can. Most youngsters will give very definite clues to the varied play interests that are uppermost in their minds at each age level.

Don't give an expensive toy to a particular child in a family and neglect the other youngsters. An

equal amount of attention—though not necessarily gifts of the same value—is desirable in the interests of harmony.

Do give consideration to possibilities of group play when there are several children in a family. For example, a gift of a set of blocks might be for "all the youngsters" with a set of farm animals for the four-year-old to use with the fences he will build; while a set of doll-house furniture might please a six-year-old sister to use in the houses

Glamor doll (above) wears real mink coat and dark glasses in Hollywood manner. Caterpillar-bulldozer (below) has scraper blades that adjust from the driver's seat.





Plastic-coated paper doll costumes can be washed and will stand repeated sewing.



Junior and his sister are dressed in the latest style space costumes.

she will erect from the same blocks.

Don't select a toy with the idea that the child will eventually grow up to it; he will, but he may lose interest in it before he does.

Do buy what the children on your list will make best use of this year—not next.

Don't give up on buying toys just because you lack knowledge of the children's individual interests. Although individual capacities and enthusiasms vary widely, there are many basic types of playthings that have sure appeal in different ways at different age levels.

Do consider toys that suggest everyday experiences—toys that act as a starter but leave the child free to use them to carry out his own ideas. For example, realistic housekeeping equipment will be used by one youngster to repeat the arrangements in his own home. Another may pile it all into a truck and act out the drama of moving into a new home. A collection of rubber balls in different sizes and

colors will be interesting and educational for the baby who is discovering what he can do with his hands and for the older child who enjoys throwing them. Picture books are classified by age interest, to make a wise choice easy.

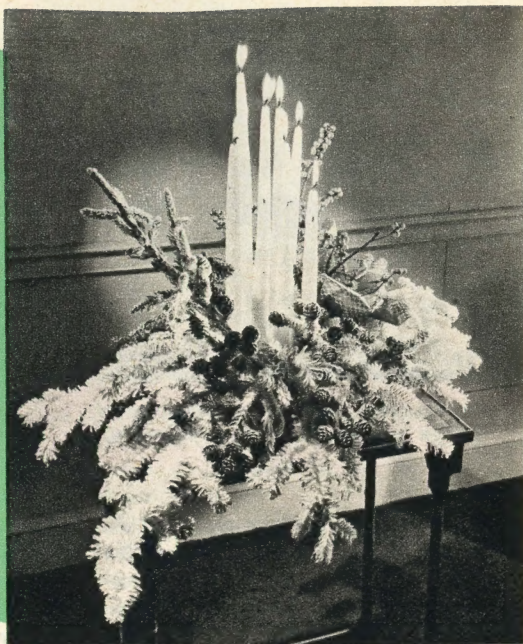
School age youngsters are interested in words, numbers, time and measurements. They enjoy sets of numbers and letters, simple games that call for counting and keeping score. They enjoy clock faces and things with which to measure. As they advance in school, they like games that use knowledge learned in the classroom.

These are some general points on choosing toys that will be of the greatest benefit to the youngsters on your Christmas list. For detailed information on children's play interests at different age levels, Dr. Grace Langdon has written a booklet, "How To Choose Toys," which is available free of charge from the American Toy Institute, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

DECORATION TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS

*Design Your Holiday
Decorations To Fit The
Style Of Your Home*

by HAROLD R. HEWEY



Any woman can design artistic Christmas decorations for her home if she is armed with a few helpful hints from expert flower stylists.

To create striking and original holiday arrangements, all that is needed is a little basic information and the right floral materials.

According to Mr. Alyn Wayne, official flower stylist for the worldwide Florists' Telegraph Delivery Association, an important pointer to remember this year is:

Design your Christmas decorations to fit the style of your home.

For a modern house or apartment, for example, the flower stylist suggests Yuletide arrangements that are simple, with the emphasis on line and form.

Mount a big Christmas candle on a plain brass tray. Arrange sprays

of spruce or pine so they climb about two-thirds of the way up the candle. Use floral clay to hold the branches in place. Then blend in a vertical line of white pompons or carnations. For a sophisticated touch to this modern design, surround the base of the candle with a cluster of chartreuse Christmas tree balls.

Here's another arrangement from the notebook of the man who creates master designs for the 9,500 florists who fill the nation's orders for flowers-by-wire.

Fill a tall container with shredded styrofoam (available at any florist's, either shredded or in blocks—and an invaluable ally for the woman arranging at home). Then, choosing Fuji mums for their bold texture, design a vertical column of about four flowers, one above the other.



Cathedral candle, sparkle branches, pine cones, evergreen and holly (above) make lovely buffet or mantel arrangement. Table centerpiece (right) features gardenia corsages to be presented guests. Holly centerpiece remains.



Now, at the base of the arrangement place three more mums to make a horizontal line at a right angle to the vertical one. Now the two lines of flowers follow the shape of the letter "L." Complete by adding three or four spruce branches and wiring half a dozen cedar cones to the spray.

For an early American atmosphere, FTD's official stylist recommends a wrought-iron and pottery planter as a container. In a planter with three pottery bowls, he mounts a candle firmly in the center of each bowl. Using floral clay as a holder, he surrounds the candles with sprays of foliage and clusters of bright red berries. For a final touch, he encases each candle in an antique glass chimney. Attractive, and safe, too.

Here's another, perfect for a cock-

tail or end table:

Put a bowl or any handy container inside a deep red and white Yule basket. Fill the container with shredded styrofoam to hold the arrangements in place. Then, design an "L" of foliage (either cedar or spruce), anchoring each branch firmly in the styrofoam. For contrast with the greenery, use six or eight big white chrysanthemums, placing the larger flowers lower in the design. For a final note of cheer, wire clusters of berries onto the branches and add three or four pine cones with tips painted a silver blue.

For Victorian decor, start with any appropriate shallow container already in your home. Holly berries and greenery can be contrasted with interesting bare branches flocked in white. One or two reindeer can be

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placed at the base. For the ultimate in the Victorian mood, the entire design is enclosed in a bell jar.

"Don't follow the rules too rigidly," warns Mr. Wayne. "It's your own imagination that adds individual charm to each arrangement. So, use your ingenuity—and improvise."

For instance, try a seasonal switch. Instead of a candle, substitute a striped candy cane. Also, add originality by combining cut flowers with traditional Christmas foliage.

Here's another idea for a centerpiece—and conversation piece—for a holiday luncheon. Cover a 20-inch cone of chicken wire with any suitable greenery, such as juniper. Then attach small orchid corsages to the foliage. When your guests arrive, each one is invited to help herself to her own private corsage. Afterwards, the tree can be re-decorated

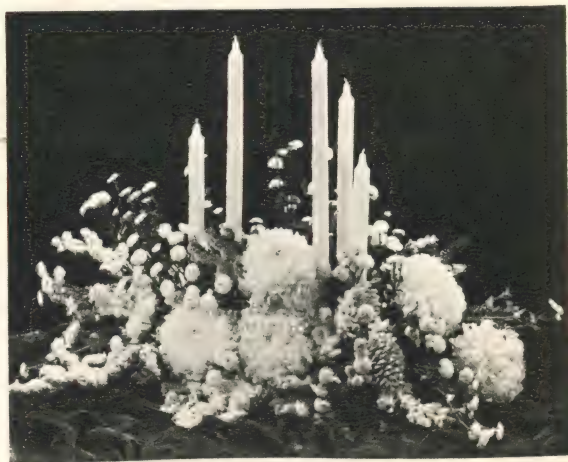
with carnations or pompons and still serve as an attractive table piece.

Hundreds of different door decorations can be made from simple raw materials, including spruce or cedar sprays, pine cones, berries, ribbons and styrofoam. A snowball of styrofoam serves the same purpose as a flower holder in these arrangements. Many variations on the same theme can be created by inserting sharpened branches of foliage into the styrofoam in different patterns. For extra originality, try a door "swag" using wicker hoops, jolly Santas, reindeer or Christmas bells.

Holiday table decorations can show lots of ingenuity. Dramatic dried materials such as thistles, seed pods and driftwood take on a holiday glow with a dusting of silver. They will provide a striking contrast to dark-toned traditional furniture.



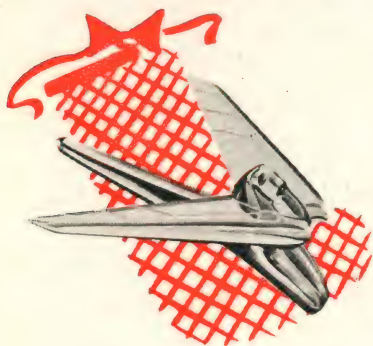
Regal candles rise from clusters of mums and pompons nestling in silvered pine cones and snow-laden evergreen to provide this spectacular centerpiece.





Always the Perfect Christmas Gift

Nash Select ACCESSORIES



A Star for Mother Kyes

by BELLE C. EWING



The children of Hazard and Cany Creek, isolated mining communities in the mountains of Kentucky, would have no Christmas if it were not for Lizzie Perry Kyes of Riverside, Calif. "Mother Kyes," as she is affectionately known, is a small, spritely woman who has known 92 summers and no winters.

Mother Kyes learned about these mountain children eight years ago. A missionary friend told her that many of them had never owned a store toy, that many had never had a Christmas tree and that some did not even know the true meaning of Christmas.

It was then that Mrs. Kyes set about collecting broken, discarded dolls and other toys. Some of the dolls are badly battered when they reach her. But, undaunted, she takes old kid gloves and makes the missing limbs or hands. Her daughter, Vera, who is an artist, retints their faces. Mother Kyes makes tiny shoes from bits of kid and crochets others. She makes dolls from bobby socks. The heel makes the "sitdown."

This ambitious woman does not limit herself to dolls for little girls. Into her boxes of cheer go hair ribbons, necklaces, colorful pins and earrings for the older girls. Marbles, necklaces, bandannas,

books, games are included for boys.

Lizzie Kyes has a great deal of love in her heart and a great deal of talent in her nimble fingers. The love—she pours out on the unknown children; the talent—on the broken, discarded dolls. Last year she sent four boxes of clothing and three boxes of dolls.

Mother Kyes came to Riverside in a stagecoach from Colton 73 years ago. She is a relative of Commodore Oliver Perry who saw service against the Barbary Pirates and won laurels in the War of 1812.

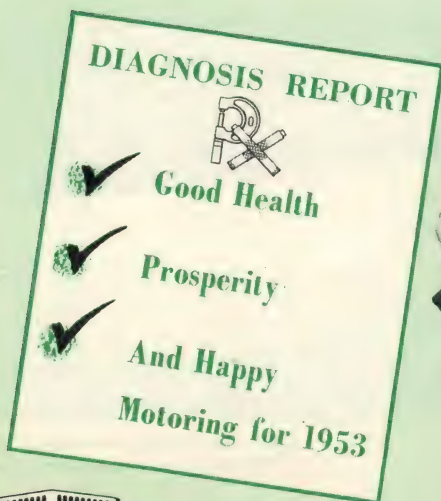
This year, college girls will ride muleback up the creek beds and over narrow, winding trails into the Kentucky mountains to deliver Mother Kyes' packages to the children, who otherwise would have no Christmas.

Somewhere there is a star shining for Lizzie Perry Kyes.



Season's Greetings

AFTER CAREFUL DIAGNOSIS
THE MEMBERS OF OUR
SERVICE DEPARTMENT
HAVE PRESCRIBED
for you . . .



THE WORLD'S
MOST MODERN SERVICE



ONE OF SEVENTEEN BRILLIANT NEW GOLDEN AIRFLYTE MODELS STYLED BY P
UPHOLSTERED IN BLACK NEEDLEPOINT AND SMART STRIPED HOMESPUN. HOOD



The Finest of Our Line

THE AMBASSADOR



THIN FARINA, THIS NASH AMBASSADOR IS
ORNAMENT, WHITE SIDEWALLS OPTIONAL

Fifty Years

The Greatest Story an Automobile Ever Told

Here is one automobile that speaks for itself. And its story of beauty, performance, comfort and economy is echoed by thousands of Nash Golden Airflyte owners everywhere. It's America's newest car.

One ride and you'll *know* the story yourself. Listen to the comments inspired by its Pinin Farina beauty, the most admired design of our times.

Slip behind the wheel and test the new Super Jetfire engine—the great Nash powerplant that scored its second straight victory over all American engines in the 24-hour "Grand Prix d'Endurance."

Look around you at the spacious interior unmatched in room and comfort. Wide, wide seats that recline, if you wish—even make up into Twin Beds . . . far greater eye-level visibility . . . a safety designed instrument panel—and the greater safety and rigidity of exclusive Airflyte construction.

You'll boast about the handling and parking ease of your Nash Golden Airflyte. And riding comfort? The automobile editor of a national magazine called this "The finest shockproof ride in the world today."

Whether you look, listen or drive—your first minutes will tell you a great story of the car that has set the new style pattern.

Talk to your Nash dealer. Learn how easy it is to own the smartest, most luxurious of today's fine cars—the car that sets a new Golden Standard of motoring—the new Nash Golden Airflyte.

Favorite Holiday Dishes



HILLTOP HOUSE, Omaha, Nebr.

CORN SOUFFLE

Mix in order 2 cups corn (cream style), 1 cup bread crumbs, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup melted butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon paprika, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon sugar, 1 teaspoon chopped parsley, 1 tablespoon chopped onion, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk and 2 eggs well beaten. Pour into well-buttered casserole. Bake in pan of hot water about 1 hour and 15 minutes at 375 degrees.



CHRISTMAS FARM INN, Jackson, N. H.



FISH PUDDING

Boil 3 pounds haddock. Remove bones and skin. Flake. In separate pan melt large lump of butter; add 2 tablespoons flour, 1 pint hot milk and 1 teaspoon nutmeg. Cool sauce; add the fish. Beat the yolks of 2 eggs and add to the mixture. Beat whites of eggs and fold into above. Bake in a well-buttered deep dish in a moderate oven 350 degrees until firm. Serve with lobster sauce.

PINE TAVERN, Bend, Ore.

FATTIGMANS BAKKELSE (Danish Christmas Pastry)

Beat slightly 5 egg yolks, 1 egg white. Add 5 rounded teaspoons sugar. Beat. Add 5 tablespoons heavy cream, 1 tablespoon brandy, 4 crushed cardamom seeds. Flour. Roll thin. Cut in 2 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ diamond shapes. Slit center; pull one end through. Cook 6 or 8 at once in deep fat. Drain and dust with powdered sugar.



THE DOLL HOUSE, *Salt Lake City, Utah*

PUMPKIN PIE

Combine 1 quart hot milk, 1 can pumpkin (No. 2½ size can), 2 cups brown sugar, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1 teaspoon salt, ½ teaspoon ginger, 8 tablespoons corn starch. Cook for 10 minutes. Fold in 5 beaten eggs and cook a few minutes. Fill pastry shell as needed. Serve with whipped cream.



THE INN, *Buck Hill Falls, Pa.*

LIGHT FRUIT CAKE

Add 6 oz. currant raisins, 8 oz. sultana raisins and 10 oz. chopped candied fruits to 8 oz. sifted cake flour. Gradually mix 8 oz. powdered sugar with 8 oz. salt butter (softened), keeping mixture light. Add 5 eggs and beat. Add 2 teaspoons rum or brandy extract, ½ teaspoon orange extract and ½ teaspoon lemon extract. Then add fruit and flour mixture gradually. Place in pan; cover tightly with wax paper. Steam 2¾ hours. Bake in 275-degree oven about 1¼ hours.



PUREFOY HOTEL, *Talladega, Ala.*

RAW CRANBERRY SAUCE

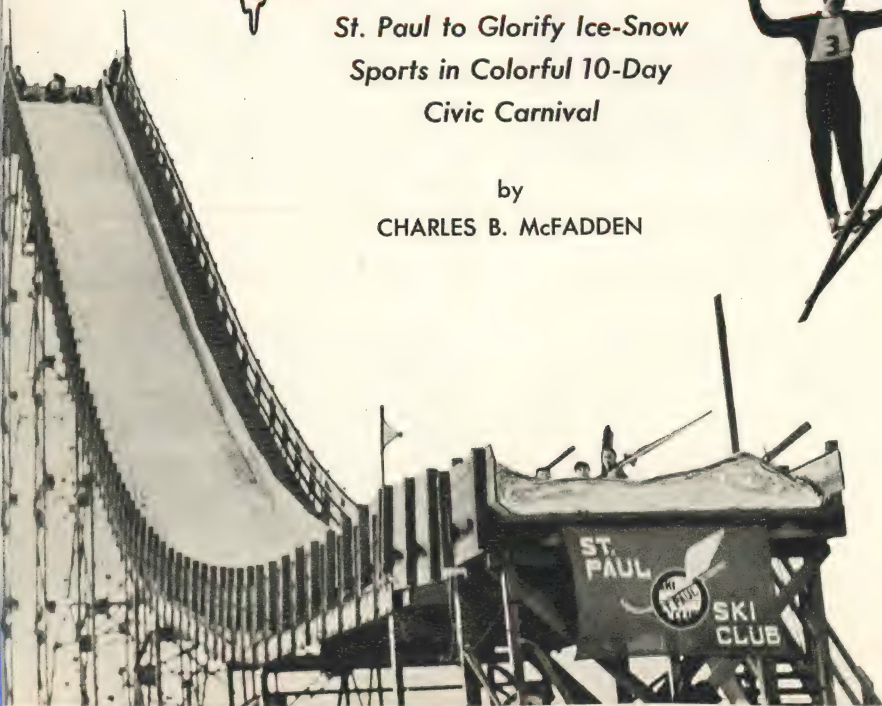
Put 1 quart cranberries, 2 apples and peel of ½ orange through food chopper (coarse knife). Cut 2 large oranges in small sections with scissors, add 2 cups sugar, stir well and set in refrigerator. Will keep several days. Nice to serve as sauce or congealed as salad, adding 2 cups pecans, or served in parfait glasses as dessert. Half of this recipe for small family.



Winter can be Fun!

*St. Paul to Glorify Ice-Snow
Sports in Colorful 10-Day
Civic Carnival*

by
CHARLES B. McFADDEN



Many of nation's top ski jumpers take part in contest at Battle Creek Slide.



Carnival's Ice Fishing Contest at White Bear Lake attracts some 7,000 persons.

Even in the "land of ice and snow" winter can be fun. To prove it, St. Paul annually comes up with a Winter Carnival, a colorful civic festival that has been called the "Mardi Gras of the North."

Here for 10 days each winter Minnesota's capital city overlooks its customary cold weather, often sub-zero during the carnival, to glorify such winter sports as ski jumping, speed skating, hockey and ice fishing—events that attract thousands of participants and spectators.

This year's winter pageant, unmatched anywhere in the nation, will open Friday, January 30, with

the crowning of a native of King Boreas XVII (Ruler of the North Wind). Next day, Saturday, January 31, King Boreas will lead the grand parade of uniformed marchers, floats and bands.

Bitter cold or not, the parade winds three miles through St. Paul streets, past the St. Paul cathedral and Minnesota capitol and into the civic auditorium. The winter carnival parade is the only one in the world that winds up before an indoor audience. A torchlight version of the parade will take place Saturday night, February 7.

The big winter sports day on the carnival calendar this year is Sun-

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day, February 1. Scheduled for that day are the National Speed Skating Championships at Lake Como at noon, the Ski Jumping Championships at Battle Creek slide in the afternoon and the world-famous Ice Fishing contest at White Bear lake, also in the afternoon.

Other events crammed into the Winter Carnival will be: crowning of a Queen of the Snows (selected from St. Paul beauties sponsored by commercial firms), a national drum majorette contest, the world's largest square dance (more than 2,000 square dancers from all over

the Upper Midwest), an amateur ice show, sports car race on ice at Lake Phalen, mutt races, curling and even bridge championships.

Vulcan, the Fire King, will arrive in St. Paul Monday, February 2, to begin his traditional battle with Boreas for domination of the carnival. Masked Vulcan, whose identity is not revealed until the end of the carnival, is destined to bring the carnival to a spectacular close by driving Boreas from his throne amid a giant fireworks display. Thus, Vulcan hails the coming of warm weather. During the carni-

Crowning of King Boreas and Queen of Snows is high light of Winter Carnival.





Masked Vulcan, the Fire King, battles King Boreas for domination of Carnival.

val Vulcan and his men, who turn up unexpectedly on the streets and at carnival events, steal kisses from the women.

For the spectator—and hundreds of them come from all over the nation to join the million people living in the Twin Cities metropolitan area—the Winter Carnival means 10 days of being continually on the go.

Sponsoring the show each year is a group of St. Paul business leaders known as Saintpaulites Inc. President is Robert J. Fitzsimmons.

The first St. Paul Winter Carnival was held in 1886, and the carnival was an annual event for three years thereafter, being canceled in 1889 because of an unseasonably mild spell.

The carnival was revived in 1916 by the late Louis W. Hill, son of James J. Hill, the "Empire Builder," and vigorously promoted until the first World War called a halt. It was revived in 1937 and ran through 1942, when it was again interrupted by a World War. Although there was a "victory" carnival in 1946, a full-fledged Winter Carnival was not staged again until 1947.

Old-timers say the carnival was started to correct the impression in the East that Minnesota in winter was a "Siberian waste." If the influx of tourists from other parts of the country at St. Paul Winter Carnival time is any indication, St. Paul seems to have proved its point: winter can be fun!

During Carnival, Vulcan and his men roam streets, steal kisses from women.



The Evolution of the Christmas Tree



by A. M. SOWDER

Charles Dickens wrote — "There seems a magic in the very name of Christmas. Petty jealousies and discords are forgotten and social feelings awakened. Would that Christmas lasted the whole year through, and that the prejudices and passions which deform our better nature were never called into action among those to whom they should be strangers."

In other words, "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men" should be our watchword at all times. The symbol for this Christian thought at Christmas is the Christmas tree.

The tree is the center of our Yuletide activities, whether it be for decorative purposes, a hiding place for presents from Santa or a focal point for community caroling and worship. The custom has become so well established and taken for granted that we seldom wonder how it came into being.

To make a long story short, we might say it all started with Adam and Eve and let it go at that. That legend describes how Adam took

with him from the Garden of Eden, a cutting from the Tree of Knowledge. In due time, the cutting rooted and produced the wood that formed the Cross of Christ.

Our present American custom calls for an evergreen bearing a beautiful assortment of colored decorations and electric lights. We got the idea of using an evergreen from the Hessian soldiers who served in the American armies during the time of the Revolutionary War. They softened their homesickness with Christmas trees—a custom already well established in Germany.

Then there is the reference to a Christmas tree at Fort Dearborn, Ill., in 1804. Note that both instances have a military bearing. The trimmings of these first trees in America consisted of strings of popcorn and cranberries or small tufts of cotton.

Other decorations from that time till the turn of the present century were candies, flowers, ribbons, fruits, sweetmeats, replicas of foodstuffs

and even paper ornaments, with candles giving light.

Contrast those decorations with our modern factory-made ornaments, tinsels, baubles, twinkling colored electric lights, artificial snow and plastic novelties, which came into use the past half century.

The idea of using a decorated Christmas tree appears to have developed in the Rhine Valley among the well-to-do families. Those of the Protestant faiths were the first to make use of Christmas trees, and it was not until the 19th Century that Roman Catholics followed suit.

From Germany it was an easy step for the custom to spread to Finland about 1800, Denmark 1810, Sweden 1820 and Norway about

1830. From the Scandinavian countries, the custom spread to France and England about 1840 with interesting accounts. One writer mentions that the first Christmas tree in England was one decorated for Princess Mary, the daughter of King Henry VIII and his wife, Catherine of Aragon.

It is generally conceded that Martin Luther, who lived from 1483 to 1546, introduced the custom of using lights on a Christmas tree. The story is told that he was strolling through the countryside alone one Christmas Eve, under a brilliant starlit sky, and his thoughts turned to the Nativity of the Christ Child. He was awed by the beauty of the sky and the wintry landscape: the blue light

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Martin Luther (1483-1546) is credited with introducing Christmas tree lights.





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on the low hills outside Weimar, and on the evergreens, the snowflakes sparkling in the moonlight.

Returning home, he told his family about it and attempted to reproduce the glory of the outdoors. To a small evergreen tree he attached some lighted candles to portray the reflections of the starry heavens.

The idea of decorating trees could be an outgrowth of a practice adopted by ancient tree worshippers. Gifts of food were frequently hung in the branches as offerings to the deities. Such givings were a Christian trait; thus, the gifts were hung in "Christian trees" or Christmas trees.

Some persons trace the origin of the Christmas tree to an earlier period. The Romans observed the Saturnalia, and part of the ceremony was to raise evergreen boughs while children danced around a tree under which gifts were placed. Some believe this custom was carried by the Romans to peoples they conquered.

The early Scandinavians are said to have done homage to the fir tree. To the Druids, sprigs of evergreen in the house meant eternal life; to the Norsemen, they symbolized the revival of the Sun God, Balder. To the superstitious, the branches of evergreen placed over the doors

would keep out witches, ghosts and the evil spirits.

The fir seems to be the tree most commonly mentioned in reviewing the evolution of the Christmas tree. The fact that the twigs of the balsam fir resemble crosses more than do other evergreens may have had something to do with it.

Now the tie-in with the Adam and Eve legend. Tracing the tradition back through the ages, one can see the evolution has been a combination of legends, tree worships, superstitions and beliefs, plus the need for something symbolic. The Tree of Knowledge cutting developed into the Cross of Christ, a branch from an evergreen represents life eternal, the fir tree was designated as the Christ Tree, and the cross branching—especially balsam fir—had special significance.

The decorations may have come about as offerings to deities, and the first lights represented stars.

The star we use on the top of the tree represents the North Star that guided the Wise Men to Bethlehem. And may the Christmas tree as we know it today continue to be our guide to Peace on Earth—Good Will Toward Men.



Christmas Carols

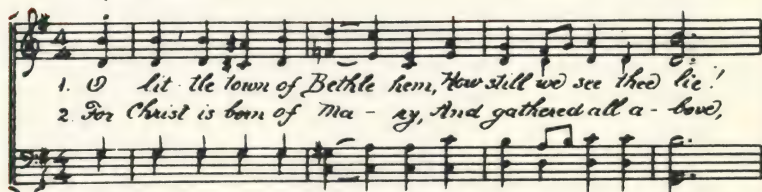


"Christmas, Christmas, Merry, Merry Christmas," the boys and girls all sing. Yes, once again the songs of Christmas will be heard throughout the land. To help you enjoy the holiday season, the words and music to some favorite Christmas songs are found on the pages that follow.

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks.

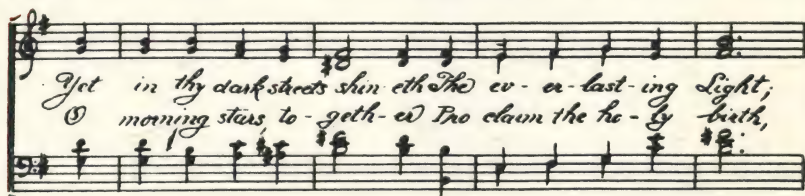
Lewis H. Redner.



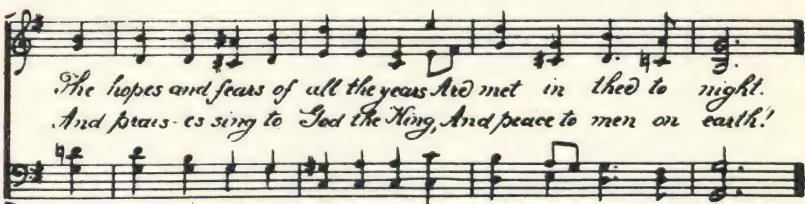
1. O lit-tle town of Bethle-hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma-ry, And gathered all a-bove,



A-bove thy deep and dreamless sleep The si-lent stars go by;
While mortals sleep, the an-gels keep Their watch of wondering love



Yet in thy dark streets shin-eth The ev-er-last-ing Light;
O morning stars, to-geth-er Pro-claim the he-ly-birth,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to night.
And prais-es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!

Joy To The World!

Isaac Watts

George F. Händel

1. Joy to ' the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re-
2. Joy to the world! the Sav- iour reigns: Let men their
3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, Nor thorns in-

ceive her King; Let ev- ery heart pre- pare Him room,
songs em- ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
fess the ground; He comes to make His bless- ings flow

And heaven and na- ture sing,
Re- peat the sound- ing joy,
Far as the curse is found,

And heaven and na- ture
Re- peat the sound- ing
Far as the curse is

And heaven and na- ture sing And
Re- peat the sound- ing joy, Re-
Far as the curse is found, Far

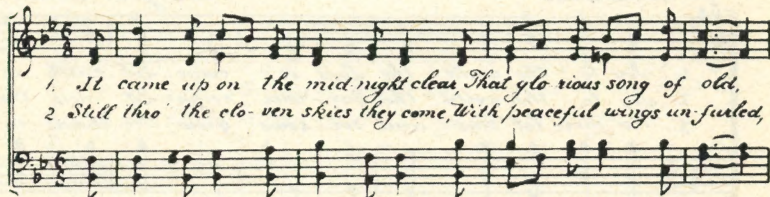
sing, And Heaven, and heaven, and na- ture sing,
joy, Re- peat, re- peat the sound- ing joy
found, Far as, Far as the curse is found.

heaven and na- ture sing,
peat the sound- ing joy,
as the curse is found,

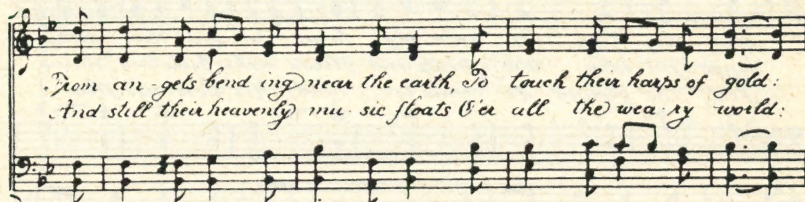
It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

Edmund H. Sears

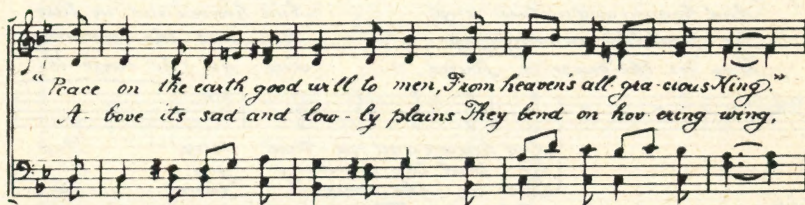
Richard S. Willis.



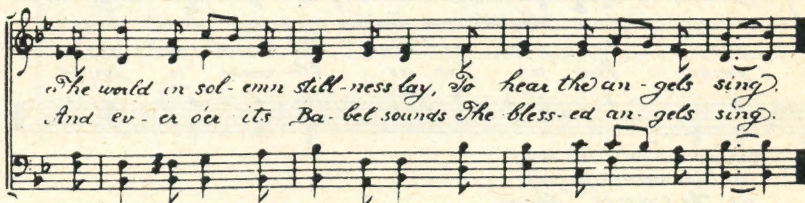
1. It came up on the mid night clear, That glo rious song of old,
2 Still thro' the clo ven skies they come, With peaceful wings un-furled,



From an-gels bend ing near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heavenly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world:



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gra-cious King."
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on ho-vering wing,

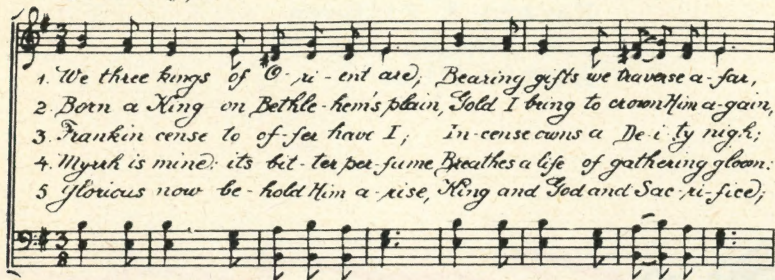


The world in sol-emn still-ness lay, To hear the an-gels sing.
And ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.

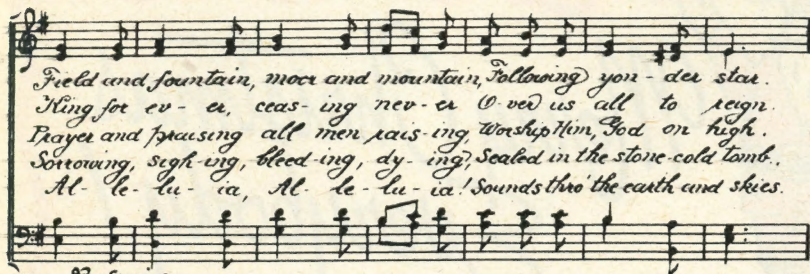
We Three Kings Of Orient Are

John H Hopkins

John H Hopkins.

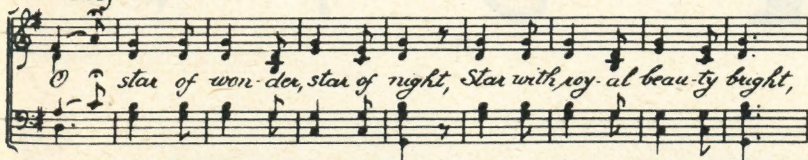


1. We three kings of O-ri-ent are, Bearing gifts we traverse a-far,
2. Born a King on Bethle-hem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him a-gain,
3. Frankin cense to of-fer have I; In-cense owns a De-i ty right;
4. Myrrh is mine: its bit-ter poe-fume Breathes a life of gathering gloom:
5. Glorious now be-hold Him a-rise, King and God and Sac-ri-ficed;

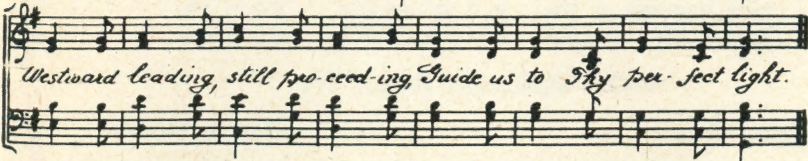


Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following you-der star.
King for ev-er, ceas-ing nev-er O-ved us all to reign.
Prayer and praising all men rais-ing Worship Him, God on high.
Sorrowing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy-ing, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Sounds thro' the earth and skies.

Refrain.



O star of won-der, star of night, Star with roy-al beau-ty bright,



Westward leading, still pro-ceed-ing, Guide us to Thy per-fect light.

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